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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/534,654	12/05/2005	John Dicesare	6978-000332/US/NP	7099
27572	7590	06/11/2008	EXAMINER	
HARNESS, DICKEY & PIERCE, P.L.C. P.O. BOX 828 BLOOMFIELD HILLS, MI 48303			COZART, JERMIE E	
		ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER	
		3726		
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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/534,654	DICESARE, JOHN	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Jermie E. Cozart	3726	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-10 is/are pending in the application.
 - 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1-10 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)	4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)	Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____ .
3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)	5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application
Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>5/12/05</u> .	6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: ____ .

DETAILED ACTION

Specification

1. The abstract of the disclosure does not commence on a separate sheet in accordance with 37 CFR 1.52(b)(4). A new abstract of the disclosure is required and must be presented on a separate sheet, apart from any other text.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

3. Claims 1, 3, 7, and 10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Marando (5,816,089).

Regarding claim 1, Marando discloses manufacturing a hydroformed member (28) comprising the steps of: providing a blank (28) defined by a blank wall; placing the blank in a die assembly (22, 24) having a die cavity (26) defined by a die surface; expanding the blank by introducing pressurized fluid (col. 6, lines 31-37) into the die cavity to force the blank wall against the die surface and form the hydroformed member; conforming a portion of the blank wall against a wall-thinning element (52, see Fig. 2) positioned along the die surface to form a removable wall section (28a, see Fig. 3, 3a) in a portion of the blank wall; and removing (see Fig. 4) the removable wall section (28a) from the blank wall to form an opening (53) in the hydroformed member (28),

wherein the removing step includes striking the removable wall section (28a) using a punch (50, see Fig. 3, 3a).

Regarding claim 3, Marando discloses the conforming step includes partially fracturing (col. 6, lines 44-46) a portion of the blank wall surrounding the removable wall section (28a).

Regarding claim 7, Marando discloses manufacturing a hydroformed member (28) with an opening using a blank (28), having a blank wall and a removable wall section (28), and a die assembly (22, 24) having a die cavity (26), a die surface defining the die cavity, and at least one wall-thinning element (52) disposed along a portion of the die surface, the method comprising the steps of: placing the blank (28) in the die cavity (26); expanding the blank by introducing pressurized fluid (col. 6, lines 31-37) into the die cavity (26) to force the blank wall against the die surface; conforming a portion of the blank wall to the wall-thinning element (52) to form the removable wall section (28a); and removing the removable wall section (28a) from the blank wall to form the opening (53) in the hydroformed member, wherein the removing step includes striking the removable wall section (28a) using a punch (50, see Fig. 3, 3a).

Regarding claim 10, Marando discloses the conforming step includes partially fracturing a portion (col. 6, lines 44-46) of the blank wall surrounding the removable wall section.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claims 2, 4-6, 8, and 9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Marando (5,816,089).

Regarding claim 3, Marando discloses the conforming step including partially fracturing a portion (col. 6, lines 44-46) of the blank wall surrounding the removable wall section.

Regarding claim 4, Marando discloses manufacturing a hydroformed member (28) comprising the steps of: providing a blank (28) defined by a blank wall; placing the blank in a die assembly (22, 24) having a die cavity (26) defined by a die surface; expanding (col. 6, lines 31-37) the blank to force the blank wall against the die surface and form the hydroformed member; conforming a portion of the blank wall against a wall-thinning element (52) positioned along the die surface to form a removable wall section (28a) in a portion of the blank wall; and removing the removable wall section from the blank wall to form an opening (53) in the hydroformed member (28) using a punch (50).

Regarding claim 5, Marando discloses the expanding step includes introducing pressurized fluid (col. 6, lines 31-37) into the die cavity (26).

Regarding claim 6, Marando discloses the removing step includes striking the removable wall section (28a) using a punch (50, see Fig. 3, 3a).

Marando, however, does not disclose the removing step including striking the removable wall section multiple times (claims 2 and 8), or moving the hydroformed

member out of the die assembly prior to the step of removing the removable wall section from the blank wall to form the opening in the hydroformed member (claims 1 and 9).

At the time the invention was made, it would have been an obvious matter of design choice to a person of ordinary skill in the art to make the removing step of Marando include striking the removable wall section multiple times, and to move the hydroformed member of Marando out of the die assembly prior to the step of removing the removable wall section from the blank wall to form the opening in the hydroformed member because Applicant has not disclosed that the removing step including striking the removable wall section multiple times, or moving the hydroformed member out of the die assembly prior to the step of removing the removable wall section from the blank wall to form the opening in the hydroformed member provides an advantage, is used for a particular purpose, or solves a stated problem. One of ordinary skill in the art, furthermore, would have expected Applicant's invention to perform equally well with the teachings of Marando because the opening is effectively formed in the hydroformed member.

Therefore, it would have been an obvious matter of design choice to modify Marando to obtain the invention as specified in claims 2, 8, and 9.

Conclusion

6. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. The references cited on the attached PTO-892 are cited to show hydroforming tubular parts.

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jermie E. Cozart whose telephone number is 571-272-4528. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday, 7:30 am - 6:00 pm.
8. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David Bryant can be reached on 571-272-4526. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.
9. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Jermie E Cozart/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 3726